



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij B.V.
 % Haseltine Lake & Co
 Imperial House
 15-19 Kingsway
 LONDON
 WC2B 6UD

The Patent Office
 Patents Directorate

Concept House
 Cardiff Road, Newport
 South Wales NP10 8QQ

Examiner: 01633 814751
 E-mail: dave.pepper@patent.gov.uk
 Switchboard: 01633 814000
 Fax: 01633 814444
 Minicom: 08459 222250
 DX 722540/41 Cleppa Park 3
<http://www.patent.gov.uk>

Your Reference: HL74401/002/ASG/mb
 Application No: GB 0310836.2

7 August 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

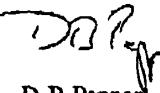
Latest date for reply: 28 August 2003

I have re-examined your application in response to your agent's letter of 24 July 2003 and enclose two copies of my further examination report and a copy of the new citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

You should also note that the extended period allowed for complying fully with the requirements of the Act will end on 28 September 2003.

Yours faithfully


 D.B. Pepper
 Examiner

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 24 July 2003.

Novelty

2. The invention as defined in claims 2-5 is not new because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

GB 2125876 A (Monarch Aluminium Ltd)
 WO 97/35084 A (Murray)
 US 4656779 A (Fedeli)

The scope of claim 2 is extremely broad so that the search has been extended outside the oilwell art. The above documents are examples of many which anticipate the above claims. They disclose a locking mechanism for a door or window in which locking elements are inserted into slots in the door or window and the frame.

Clarity and Consistency

3. Claim 1 would appear to be inconsistent with the detailed description in respect of more than one coupling element extending from a single coupling arm.

4. The references in claims 9 and 10 to "support member slots" and "tubular member slots" are inconsistent with the respective previous references in claim 1 to "one or more support member slots" and "one or more tubular member slots".